

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an extensible software architecture that facilitates providing additional end-user system functionality, comprising the steps of:
installing on a system a file compatible with a known system application program interface (API), wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to provide a modified user interface to one or more users of the system;
invoking an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface;
specifying in the file one or more roles that can utilize the enhanced functionality;
determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced functionality; and
if the user has rights, granting access to the enhanced functionality.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of writing the roles into a system data repository.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the functionality is provided by at least one of a hyperlink and icon.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the roles comprise at least one of user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor and teacher's assistant.
5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of denying access to the enhanced functionality if the user does not have access rights.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the file is installed on the system by using a Java archive file.